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Lawmakers, Governor Reach Historic Agreement

Detroit Parents to Get More Choices; Legislation Would Remake City's Public Schools

LANSING – Hailed as an historic agreement that will fundamentally alter the way in which academic goals are delivered to children in all of Michigan's schools, an agreement was hammered out by state Republican lawmakers and Gov. Jennifer Granholm to secure more charter schools and provide necessary oversight to help ensure their long-term success.

"I am glad to see that we have been able to reach a very reasonable, common sense approach with the Governor on this very important issue," said Valde Garcia, R-Howell.

The agreement would:

- Create 150 new charters over ten years, broken down as follows: 125 new charters over ten years (13 each year for the first five years, 12 each year for the next five years; 10 new charter high schools (two a year for five years); 15 Thompson schools.
- Bay Mills is under the cap.
- No more than two university charters per year are allowed in any one school district. \$15 million intended for declining enrollment districts that lose students to charter schools.
- Detroit Public Schools will no longer have a Reform Board, but, rather, an elected board. The mayor will have veto power in the selection of the district CEO. The district CEO retains strong powers.
- Various provisions of original SB 393: The authorizer may disapprove any agreement between the charter school and a management company if the agreement is contrary to law; Accountability measures including: no conflict

of interest; no nepotism; release of information; management company accountability; special education student recruitment; open enrollment for two weeks; no simultaneous payment for two positions held by one person; and enrollment priority; Increased authorizer accountability and oversight of charter schools.

- Includes the dissolution process which requires the authorizer to develop a plan for dissolution of a school.
- Collective bargaining for programs that have been reconstituted by an ISD as a charter school.

“Despite the number of years it took to get this agreement, I am sure the parents who have been waiting in line for the opportunity to send their children to charter schools are thrilled to hear of this achievement,” Garcia added.